



A visual representation of "Grandfather" by Gillian Bickley

Grandfather Gillian Bickley

*My grandfather was a quiet man;
an allotment near the railway line,
where his working life was spent,
gave him additional quiet.*

*"Ask your grandfather to take you there,"
the family suggested.*

*He showed me his shed,
but most of all the robin's nest
with blue eggs or bald young,
and an alert bright-eyed brown nesting bird,
on a high shelf in the dark,
which a curious small girl could just
stand tip-toe to see.*

*"Don't touch it now!" he warned,
quite sternly, for him.
"She'll abandon the nest, fly away,
perhaps never return."*

*His own mother had done that;
died when he was fourteen.*

*For the rest of his life, on one day of the year,
The quiet man was quietest of all.
"What's the matter?" his wife or daughter
(my mother and grandmother) would ask.*

*"This was the day my mother died,"
came his unchangeable reply.*

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Lee Ka Ching

Po On Commercial Association
Wong Siu Ching Secondary School



My work shows family love and Grandpa's memory of his mother. The nest symbolises mother's love and care. Grandfather, the girl (me), and the young birds are all in the bird's nest, protected by family love and the love of mother. The bird mother is bigger than Grandpa and me as it has to protect the blue eggs. Mothers' love is great and unconditional, just like that of the mother bird. She uses her body to protect her children. That is why I made her larger than everyone else in the nest.

In the bird's nest, Grandfather is standing in a hole. Unlike the others who are all in warm colours, Grandfather is the only person in blue, a colour that can suggest feelings of sadness. Grandfather's mother died early when he was only fourteen. Therefore, he cannot show his mother how much he loves her when he grows up. That is the loss that can never be made up.



Positive value(s) and attitude(s):

Family love

Positive message(s):

Your family members have a deep affection for you, accept and love you for who you are, no matter what.